

PREFACE

appear to have been composed shortly before 1408, and were first printed by Flaminio Cornaro, in vol. vii. of his *Ecclesiae Venetae antiquis monumentis illustratae*, Venice, 1749. The latter, especially, is full of most interesting documents and letters concerning the lives of Catherine's disciples in the years immediately following her death.

(5) Of St. Catherine's Letters, the originals of only six have been preserved—none of them being in her own hand, but all written at her dictation by one or other of her secretaries. Four of these (two in a merely fragmentary condition) are in the Biblioteca Comunale of Siena, in the famous manuscript numbered T. Hi. 3.; they are the letters to Stefano Maconi and Pietro di Giovanni Ventura, numbered 255, 258, 262, 264, in Gigli's edition, and 319, 320, 329, 332 in that of Tommaseo. A fifth, also addressed to Stefano Maconi (numbered 256 in Gigli and 365 in Tommaseo), belongs to the Confraternity of Santa Lucia in Siena. The sixth, addressed to Giacomo di Viva, is among the treasures left by the late Mr. Hartwell de la Garde Grissell to the Jesuit church at Oxford, and was first published by Messrs. Frank Rooke Ley and Arthur Francis Spender in an article contributed by the latter to *St. Peter's* in 1899. It had not previously been included in any printed edition of Catherine's works, nor have I ever met with a copy of it in the manuscript collections.

In addition to these, there are a certain number of manuscripts containing copies of Catherine's letters, of which I have personally studied eighteen. Nine of these contain hitherto unpublished matter : in the Biblioteca Casanatense at Rome, MSS. 292 and 2422 ; in the Biblioteca Riccardiana at Florence, MS. 1303 ; in the Biblioteca Nazionale at Florence, MSS. xxxv. 199, xxxviii. 130, Palat. 57, Palat. 58, Palat. 60 ; in the British Museum, Harleian MS. 3480. The three Palatine MSS. and the Harleian MS. are fifteenth century copies, in one case complete, of the famous manuscript of the Saint's letters compiled by Stefano Maconi, now lost, which was once preserved in the Certosa of Pavia.

The first edition of Catherine's letters, published at Bologna